

The Watchman and Southron.

Entered at the Postoffice at Sumter, S. C., as Second Class Matter.

PERSONAL NEWS.

Mendel L. Smith, Esq., of Camden, is in the city attending court.

Mr. J. V. Wilson, of Columbia, is in the city on business.

J. B. McLaughlin, Esq., of Columbia, is in town on legal business.

Mr. S. F. Parrott, of Gaffney, is in the city.

Mr. and Mrs. R. I. Manning have returned from Florida.

Mrs. W. F. Robertson who has been visiting relatives in Wilmington, N. C., has returned home.

Miss Viola Benbow has returned from a pleasant visit to Summerton where she was the guest of her cousins.

Mr. E. W. Dabbs, Jr., of the Citadel at Charleston, is in the city in attendance upon court in the Dabbs-Betts case.

Mr. H. M. Sanders, of Wintons-Salem, N. C., is in the city for a few days stay. This is Mr. Sanders' first visit home for eighteen months and he is amazed at the improvements in the old town since he was last here.

CITY COUNCIL MEETING.

Few Matters Acted on at Tuesday Night's Session.

City Council held its regular semi-monthly meeting Tuesday night with all of the members present. The meeting was a short one and few matters of general interest were acted upon.

Mr. James Crosswell requested that the license of the Southern Express Company be reduced. He gave a statement of receipts during the past year showing how their traffic had been cut down, as compared with the year before. Council decided to reduce the license from One Hundred and Fifty to One Hundred Dollars.

The usual exemption of Building and Loan Associations from taxes was granted.

Council authorized the extension of Pear Street through the Water Works property to connect with Corbett street.

Mayor Jennings reported that he had examined into the matter of city's title to Haynsworth street and had affirmed the title on behalf of the city. He stated that he had also accepted from Messrs. D. James Winn and William Yeaton an offer of land to extend Calhoun Street westward to the Richardson estate.

Mr. Rowland reported that he had examined the Clerk and Treasurer's reports for February and found them correct.

In anticipation of the paving to be done on Liberty street Council ordered that all water and sewer connections which would be needed on two blocks be done now and that a fee of Fifty Dollars shall be charged for all such connections after the paving is laid.

Council decided to accept the offer of the First National Bank to buy their office furniture and fixtures for two hundred and fifty dollars, provided they also include the fan heretofore reserved by them. Mr. Rowland opposed, paying more than two hundred dollars for the outfit.

WRECK ON COAST LINE.

Ties Torn Loose from Rails Between Wilson's Mill and Manning.

A very unusual railroad accident is reported to have occurred on the Coast Line between Wilson's Mill and Manning on Wednesday morning, causing a great deal of inconvenience to regular trains between Sumter and Charleston during the remainder of the day and a detour over the North-western from Sumter to Wilson's Mill by way of Summerton.

It seems from reports that the trucks of one or two cars of a fertilizer train got off the track at Wilson's Mill and ran along the ties all the way to Manning before it was discovered. At Manning, however, several cars left the track and the accident was discovered. By running on the ties the spikes were pulled loose or broken off and a gang had to go behind the train and repair the damages to the line.

A delay of several hours was also reported on the train between Orangeburg and Denmark, caused by a breakdown of the engine.

Marriage License Record.

The following marriage licenses were issued Monday and Tuesday, all of the parties named being colored.

Josh Maples and Ethel McQuillan, Sumter; Mack Watts and Emaline Young, Rembert; James Kemp and Rosana McDonald, Sumter; Edward Seals and Zella Nelson, Sumter; Richard Thompson and Wilhelmina Jacobs, Stateburg; A. H. McLeary, of Aleolu and Mattie Wright, of Sumter; Tom Williams and Hattie Mitchell, Sumter.

NEGROES LOSING GROUND.

CENSUS EXPERT SAYS FIGURES SHOW DECLINE.

Immigration of Whites and Slumps in Negro Birth Rate Held Accountable.

Solution of the negro problem through the difference in natural increase of the white and black races in the United States is foreseen by Walter F. Wilcox, special agent of the United States census bureau and chief statistician of the 12th census. He points out in a report that the negroes are steadily losing ground throughout the South, both by immigration of whites and by their own declining birth rate. They are losing ground still more rapidly in the North, and there is thus reason to believe that nature will solve the race problem in her usual way, by the survival of the fittest.

"That the white race is slowly displacing the negroes in the United States is now well known," Mr. Wilcox writes. "The more rapid increase of the whites is due not only to the influx of hundreds of thousands of white immigrants, but also to the fact that in the registration area of 1910—an area including three-fifths of the whites and more than one-fifth of the negroes, and so a fair index of conditions in the country at large—the negro death rate exceeded the white by about two-thirds."

Furthermore, "during the years since 1880 . . . the excess in the proportion of negro children over white children in the country has likewise been falling. The present difference in fecundity between the races is little more than one-fourth of that in 1880, and at the present rates of change it will have disappeared entirely before the next census is taken."

The decline is largely due to negro emigration to the cities, the writer thinks. "The fecundity of city negroes is only about two-thirds that of city whites, but the fecundity of country negroes is much above that of country whites." The negroes' loss of ground is further hastened by their tendency to migrate North, where the fecundity of all races is lower than it is in the South.

"The evidence, then," Mr. Wilcox concludes, "points to a differential natural increase as an important factor, a factor, in my opinion, at least as important as immigration, in determining the present and future relative proportions of the two main races of this country."

CROWDS SEE OPENING DISPLAY.

Rivers-Bultman Outfitting Co., Present "The Season's Newest."

Last night from 8 to 10 the fair sex of Sumter had another opportunity of witnessing a big style show when the Rivers-Bultman Outfitting Co., had their official spring opening. The millinery department on the second floor was a scene of brilliance and gaiety, bedecked as it was with fashionable Paris and New York hats, also home-trimmed models. Everywhere the fair sex alone and in groups were heard admiring the hundred and one little things about the new hats that only a woman can appreciate the cleverness of.

During the exhibition excellent music was furnished by a large player piano. Especially pretty was the window decorating which greeted the eye of the visitor at the opening. One window represented a spring bride ready for the ceremony, and her beauty and tasty adornment could well have been relied upon to turn even a staid bachelor's thoughts from the world of single bliss (?)

CIVIL COURT BEGINS.

One Case Disposed of Monday—Second One Now Being Argued.

The spring term of the court of Common Pleas opened Monday morning, Judge Frank B. Gary, presiding. The first case called was that of Irby vs. the Southern Express company. In a former verdict Irby was awarded \$350. The case then went to the Supreme Court, and Monday on retrial in Common Pleas court Irby was given a verdict of only \$250. The suit was for damages against the express company for having lost a plat belonging to plaintiff.

In the court of common pleas Thursday afternoon, S. Frank Parrott was awarded a verdict of \$700 as the result of his suit against the North-western Railroad Company for damages sustained while he was a passenger on a trip over that road. Mr. Parrott had several ribs broken.

Underwood in Fight to Finish.

Washington, March 25.—Majority Leader Underwood today emphatically denied reports that he had decided to drop the fight against the repeal of the free canal toll bill. He urged that his denial be given the fullest publicity.

THE ULSTER FIASCO.

ENGLISH CABINET TELLS PARLIAMENT OF ITS MISTAKES.

Secretary of War Seely Assumes Full Responsibility for Situation and Offers to Resign—Unionist Leaders Attempt to Make Political Capital Out of Crisis.

London, March 25.—The government today published its promised statement of its dealings with the revolting officers of the Third cavalry brigade and the house of commons held another heated and disorderly session. Between the documents presented and the various statements drawn from cabinet ministers, vital facts of the affair were made clear. They reveal a comedy, or tragedy, of errors perpetrated by Col. Seely, secretary of war, and Sir Arthur Paget, commanding the troops in Ireland.

Col. Seely took all the blame on himself. He frankly declared he had made a great mistake. His written assurances to Gen. Hubert Gough that the government "must retain its right to use all the forces of the crown in Ireland or elsewhere to maintain order and the support the civil powers in the ordinary exercise of their duty but has no intention whatever of taking advantage of this right to crush political opposition to the policy or the principles of the home rule bill," was given without the knowledge of the cabinet and contrary to its policy.

The war secretary tendered his resignation to Mr. Asquith but the premier refused to accept it. The government has withdrawn Col. Seely's guarantees, and Sir Edward Grey told the house of commons that the government's decision would be made known to Gen. Gough tomorrow. Thus the situation with respect to Gen. Gough and his 59 comrades who sent in their papers is still in a state of suspense.

The most important revelations of the day were that the government did plan an important military and naval demonstration on Ulster. Winston Spencer Churchill, first lord of the admiralty, confirmed reports that he had ordered the third battleship squadron and a torpedo flotilla to Irish waters but explained that when the military arrangements had not been carried out he countermanded the order by wireless—an explanation which the Unionists received with jeers.

The blunder Gen. Paget made appears to have been in giving a practical ultimatum to officers of the cavalry brigade, to say whether they would take active service in Ulster.

The cabinet Monday framed a general statement of the officers' position and duty under the law, and Col. Seely freely admitted that his error was in yielding to Gen. Gough's demand for a written assurance that the army would not be used to suppress the covenanters.

Premier Asquith's statements that the officers should return to duty unconditionally, it is declared, were made in good faith, since he learned of Col. Seely's amendments to the cabinet memorandum only yesterday. The prime minister made plain to the house of commons the government's position regarding the army, declaring he would not assent to the claim of any body of men in the service of the crown to demand assurances of what they would be required to do in circumstances which had not arisen.

Sir Edward Grey spoke even more strongly. He said:

"The government is prepared to use force to whatever extent is required to make the will of the country prevail. That is a contingency which can not arise for a long time, and we will labor to avoid it."

Much of the debate in the house of commons tonight consisted of fiery denunciations of the military aristocracy. Government members were placated by today's revelations, but there remains among Radicals and Laborites a strong and outspoken dissatisfaction with the whole affair. Many think the matter would have been allowed to rest except for the almost unanimous attacks by the Liberal press and beatings of the Conservative press over what they speak of as Gen. Gough's vic. ry.

All talk of a compromise on the home rule bill for the time is suspended. Conservatives hold that recent events have shown that no compromise is possible, except on the unconditional exclusion of Ulster. The Liberals say that would not be a compromise, but surrender. Col. Seely's transfer and the announcement and acceptance of the resignations of Gen. Paget and Gen. Gough would be no surprise.

J. Austin Chamberlain complained that the government had revealed nothing concerning the instructions given by the army council to Gen. Paget. If, as had been stated, the government merely intended the movement of troops to protect the stores, it never would have told Gen. Paget to excuse from service the officers domiciled in Ulster. It was inconceivable, he said, that when

BATTLE REPORTS CONFLICTING

TALES OF VILLA'S DEFEAT AND VICTORY.

Message from Governor Chao Says Previous Message of Villa's Defeat Greatly Exaggerated. Late Report Says he Lost 2,000 Men in Battle at Torreon.

Juarez, March 26.—Gen. Villa has rallied his troops and renewed the attack on the federals who drove the constitutionalists away from Gomez Palacio, according to a brief message received from Gov. Chao early today. Villa expects to retake Gomez Palacio immediately and urged that a shipment of hand grenades, ordered yesterday, be hastened. The message declares further that earlier reports of Villa's defeat were exaggerated. He expects soon to be fighting in the streets of Torreon.

Report of 2,000 Lost in Battle. Mexico City, March 26.—Villa has been defeated at Torreon with a loss of two thousand. "Gen. Velasco won a great victory" was the statement given out by the war department today. It was claimed to be based on official advices from Torreon though wires to that city have not been working since last night.

The premier gave his statement to the press Sunday he knew that Mr. Churchill had ordered a battle squadron to Lamlash.

"The honor of the prime minister is at stake in this matter," he said, "and it is the first lord of the admiralty who has put it at stake."

Mr. Chamberlain declared it was known that the two paragraphs for which the secretary for war assumed sole responsibility were prepared by him in consultation with Viscount Morley, who was present throughout the proceedings in which the cabinet participated. Lord Morley would not have assented to their inclusion, he contended, unless the paragraphs were a fair interpretation of what the cabinet had decided on and the premier would not accept Col. Seely's resignation because he only had done what the cabinet members themselves had assented to.

"Lord Morley had no direct connection with the paragraphs referred to. He merely happened to be with Col. Seely in the cabinet room when the dispatch case containing them was brought in. For that reason and because he is chivalrous, he assumed responsibility for them, but Col. Seely still accepts the sole and fullest responsibility."

Mr. Balfour's motion to reject the consolidated fund bill, which provided the pretext for the debate, was defeated, 314 to 222.

Lord Morley of Blackburn in his speech in the house of lords made the important admission that the two unauthorized paragraphs added to the Gough letter were drafted by Col. Seely in consultation with Lord Morley. The Conservative morning papers commenting on this admission, contend that Lord Morley, who holds the office of lord president of the council, also should resign.

The house of commons buzzed with excitement and was crowded to its utmost capacity when Lord Charles Beresford opened the attack on the government by demanding information as to the naval movements in connection with the situation in Ulster.

"Was the battle squadron ordered to steam at full speed from Spanish waters to the Irish coast and ordered to embark field guns?" he asked.

Winston Spencer Churchill, first lord of the admiralty, admitted that the battle squadron had been ordered to Lamlash "so as to be in proximity to the coast of Ireland in case of serious disturbance arising. When it was clear that the military precautionary movements had been carried out without opposition it was decided that this movement of the fleet could be delayed until the Easter leave period was over."

The statement of the first lord was followed by a cyclone of questions. A Unionist member asked if Mr. Churchill expected that "this precautionary movement of troops would lead to fighting." In a moment the first lord flared up.

"I repudiate the hellish suggestion," he shouted.

When the consequent uproar had subsided the speaker reprimanded Mr. Churchill, saying that such an expression should not have been used. The first lord regretfully withdrew it and the storm passed as quickly as it had arisen.

Mr. Churchill, continuing his reply to Lord Charles Beresford, said:

"The admiral wanted the field guns to exercise his men in case of 'bad weather.'"

After a brief sentence or two from Andrew Bonar Law, leader of the opposition, asking for the presentation to the house of details which had been omitted from the "White Paper" Col. Seely opened his defense.

The secretary for war declared he had nothing to conceal, and foreshad-

WOULD SETTLE ULSTER CRISIS

CABINET, PARLIAMENT AND KING UNITE TO QUIET MATTER.

Officers Must Fight Where Lawful Authorities Send Them, Says Churchill.

London, March 26.—Cabinet, parliament and the king today are using every endeavor to settle the army crisis over the Ulster situation. It is now believed that Seely and Churchill will remain in the cabinet. A long conference was held at Buckingham Palace.

In the house of commons, responding to sharp questioning Secretary of War Seely declared "troops shall not be employed to aid the civil power in districts with which they are territorially connected." Questioners then turned to Secretary of the Navy Churchill, who replied with great vigor, "naval officers and men expected to obey without question the order of their lawfully constituted authorities."

TOLL REPEAL WILL WIN.

Administration Leaders Count on Majority of One Hundred.

Washington, March 26.—Word was taken to President Wilson by administration leaders in congress today that the Panama tolls repeal bill will have a majority of one hundred in the house when the final vote is taken. These leaders also told the president that the special rule limiting debate to fifteen hours, will be adopted by a majority of fifty. It is stated at the White House that the administration no longer fears the outcome of the fight in the house.

Disregarding requests for additional time the house rules committee agreed to grant twenty-four hours debate on the free tolls bill instead of fifteen when the house met.

Fitzgerald of New York, called up the conference report urging the deficiency appropriations bill, which is privileged, thus putting aside the rivers and harbors budget. This temporarily delayed the repeal of the bill.

The Manning graded school should raise quite a nice little sum towards the monument fund, Summerton should be the next in line, then Pine-wood, Paxville, Turbeville and the other schools in proportion to enrollment.—The Manning Times.

owing his impending resignation, said he thought in view of the information received by the government it was necessary to take certain steps to protect the government depots. He had issued instructions for this purpose with the full authority of the cabinet. Gen. Paget came to London to discuss the methods of carrying out the movement of troops. Col. Seely continued:

"It appeared to the government and to Gen. Paget that a state of excitement might be caused which might result in commotion in all parts of Ireland. I therefore took the necessary steps to support the movement in the event of their being opposed by armed force."

Then came a telegram from Sir Arthur Paget from which it appeared to the government that these officers had deliberately defied the lawful orders of Sir Arthur Paget and also his authority. But subsequently it appeared that there had been a misconception of the statement made by Gen. Paget at a meeting with his officers. These officers believed there was a plan to treat Ulster as an enemy, overwhelm her by a concentrated attack. This belief you well can imagine must have been caused by wild rumors abroad. There was not a shadow of foundation for these rumors.

The authorities knew that directly we moved troops these rumors would arise and that was the absolute justification for my action in accepting the suggestion of Gen. Paget that we should be prepared for a state of disorder following these necessary movements.

Giving an account of his interviews with Gen. Gough and other officers, Col. Seely said:

"The officers explained that they had no idea that they were only going to be asked to support the civil power in the event of disorder, and Gen. Gough expressed himself as ready to go to Belfast."

Turning to the letter read by Andrew Bonar Law, in the house of commons attributing to Gen. Paget the words, "Ulster will be in a blaze by Saturday," Col. Seely said that Gen. Paget had told him what he really said was "there might be a blaze and certainly will be a blaze in the press."

Proceeding to relate his interviews with King George, Col. Seely said he had merely laid the facts of the great army crisis before his majesty, and added:

"Any suggestion that the king has taken any initiative in this matter is absolutely without foundation in the broadest sense. His majesty took no initiative of the kind."

TORREON BATTLE UNDECIDED.

OBSERVERS CONCLUDE THAT VILLA HAS MET CHECK.

Federals Report Sweeping Victory—Huertistas' Claim to Have Driven Rebel Assaults Back With Heavy Losses.

El Paso, March 26.—Out of the conflicting dispatches which come from the scene of operations before Torreon, where Gen. Villa on Monday began in earnest his campaign for the reduction of the city, the inference may be drawn that the constitutional forces have met with strong resistance and that the fighting has been even.

The battle at last definite accounts from rebel sources was raging fiercely in Gomez Palacio, a suburb of Torreon, and the rebels were said to be fully confident that they would be able to capture Torreon by the end of the week.

On the other hand, Mexico City reports that the rebels have sustained probably their worst disaster of the year. Dispatches from the capital announce that the war office reports a great victory for the federals, the rebels having been repulsed with the loss of 2,000 men after heavy fighting.

The timely arrival of Gen. Maas and Gen. de Moure, it was announced played a great part in the victory.

BETTS COMPANY GETS VERDICT.

Dabbs Fails in Suit Against Betts Railroad Company.

The case of E. W. Dabbs, as trustee, and others, against C. Walter Betts and others, known as the Betts Railroad, ended in civil court today when a verdict was returned by the jury in favor of the defendants. The case was one for \$1,950 for alleged damaged done the plaintiff by operations through land belonging to him and his children, for whom he was acting.

He alleged that certain roads through his land had been used after the end of the contract and that a spur track had been used, when permission for this had not been granted in the contract. An injunction was first asked by Dabbs, which was refused. The case was brought last year in Common Pleas court and set aside as the papers had not been properly prepared. The finding of the jury Thursday for the defendant probably settles the case for good.

The next case brought up in Common Pleas court was that of Frank Covert against the Atlantic Coast Line Railroad Company. This is a suit for \$2,999 alleged personal injuries because of hurts received by the plaintiff, when he was knocked down in a car of hay, which he was unloading, by a box car running against the car in which he was working.

A FORLORN HOPE.

W. W. Wannamaker of Calhoun County May Run for Congress.

St. Matthews, March 25.—It has been pretty definitely ascertained from express statements to his friends that W. W. Wannamaker, a Calhoun county man, intends to oppose Congressman Lever for his seat in congress at the coming primary. Mr. Wannamaker it is understood, has been giving the matter serious thought for some time, and, unless he shall change his mind, it is generally understood that he will be in the race.

AUTOMOBILE KILLS THREE.

Fatal Ending of Joy Riders at Dallas, Texas.

Dallas, Texas, March 26.—An automobile plunged down a forty-foot ravine near here early today. The dead are Dr. Samuel Tipton, Mrs. Kate Loving and her son, William. Three others were seriously injured.

EARTHQUAKE SHOCK FELT.

Michigan Miners Leave Work When They Feel Tremble.

Houghton, Mich., March 26.—Three sharp earthquake shocks were felt here today at eight o'clock. Miners left the copper mines, fearing further shocks. None are reported injured.

Real Estate Transfers.

W. B. Boyle to The Farmers' Tobacco Warehouse Company, lot on East Liberty street, \$5,000.

Mrs. Leila E. Wright to Charles W. Smith, lot on Wright street, \$700.

E. Dudley Hodge, trustee, to J. Bossard Britton, 246 acres in Sumter county, \$12,110.

T. W. Boyle to W. B. Boyle, his interest in lot on Liberty street, \$2,500.

Paul Grantham to Jerry Scott, 1 1-2 acres in Concord township \$20.

C. C. Moore to Durant P. Pennington, lot on West Hampton avenue, \$1,750.